Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH REPORTS.

VOL. XXV. MAY 13, 1910. No. 19.

UNITED STATES.

REPORTS TO THE SURGEON-GENERAL, PUBLIC HEALTH AND MARINE-HOSPITAL SERVICE.

PLAGUE-PREVENTION WORK.

INTIMATE ASSOCIATION OF RATS AND GROUND SQUIRRELS.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Converse reports:

Recent observations show several points of intimate contact between rats and squirrels in the immediate outskirts of San Francisco.

The facility with which bubonic plague might be transferred from plague-infected rats to healthy squirrels and vice versa from plague-infected ground squirrels to the noninfected rat population of a city is illustrated by the finding, on the immediate outskirts of San Francisco, of several places where rats (*Mus norvegicus*) and ground squirrels (*Citellus beecheyi*) have been found to live in the same burrows.

The first of these locations is a ravine, on one side of which are situated a tannery and a cluster of old and more or less dilapidated houses and on the other open fields. At the bottom of the ravine runs a small stream, which also serves the purpose of a sewer for several groups of houses situated farther upstream. A number of squirrel holes are to be seen along the bank, and several mounds along the stream at this point are perforated with them.

One of the foremen employed in the work of rat trapping noticed, on passing the spot, that both rats and squirrels were present. Traps were placed in the holes and rats and squirrels were caught from the same burrow. One of the squirrels, captured alive, was combed for fleas at the laboratory. From this one squirrel there were recovered *Ceratophyllus acutus*, 47 specimens, *Ctenopsyllus musculi*, 2 specimens, the first being the common squirrel flea, the second, a rat flea.

The second location is a chicken and duck ranch on which is situated a barn which was found to be rat-infested. There are a number of squirrel burrows in the fields immediately adjoining. At the time of the first observation this place was vacant. The squirrels had approached the barn, but on the sudden appearance of the trapper had disappeared under the barn as a temporary hiding place. No doubt a number of other such points of contact will be discovered.

In each of these instances the rats, by short migration, are in contact with the rat population of the city and the squirrels are in contact with other squirrel colonies in the open country.

Passed Assistant Surgeon McCoy reports:

SAN FRANCISCO, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened January 30, 1908. Last case of rodent plague trapped October 23, 1908. Total number of rats found infected to date, 398.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Premises inspected, 800. Houses destroyed, 19. Buildings condemned, 3. Nuisances abated, 68. Poisons placed, 7,800. Rats trapped, 2,014. Rats found dead, 23. Gophers trapped, 20. Rats identified, 2,037, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 1,614; *Mus rattus*, 95; *Mus musculus*, 281; *Mus alexandrinus*, 47. Average number of traps set daily, 7,473. Examined bacteriologically, 1,555 rats and 7 gophers. No plague infection found.

BERKELEY, CAL.

There is no record of rodent plague in Berkeley. The last case of human plague sickened August 28, 1907.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Rats trapped, 16. Rats identified, 16, all being *Mus norvegicus*. Rats examined bacteriologically, 16. No plague infection found.

OAKLAND, CAL.

Last case of human plague sickened October 26, 1909. Last case of rodent plague found December 1, 1908.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Rats found dead, 54. Rats trapped, 533. Rats identified, 587, as follows: *Mus norvegicus*, 516; *Mus musculus*, 71. Rats examined bacteriologically, 516. No plague-infected rats found.

ALAMEDA COUNTY, CAL. (Exclusive of the city of Oakland.)

Last case of human plague sickened 2 miles southwest of Sunol, September 26, 1909. Last case of rodent plague found March 25, 1910. To the present time 76 ground squirrels and 1 wood rat have been found infected.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 8. Ground squirrels shot, 76. Acres covered with poison, 149. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 76. No plague-infected squirrels found.

FRESNO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Fresno County.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 29. Ground squirrels shot, 910. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 901. No plague-infected squirrels found.

MERCED COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Merced County. Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 5. Ground squirrels shot, 293. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 288. No plague-infected squirrels found.

MONTEREY COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Monterey County. Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 34. Ground squirrels shot, 551; found dead, 1. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 547. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN LUIS OBISPO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in San Luis Obispo County. A plague-infected rodent was found January 29, 1910.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 9. Ground squirrels shot, 232. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 230. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SAN MATEO COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in San Mateo County.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 7. Ground squirrels shot, 168. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 165. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Santa Barbara County.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 18. Ground squirrels shot, 362. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 356. No plague-infected squirrels found.

SANTA CLARA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human plague in Santa Clara County. A plague-infected rodent was found November 3, 1909. Total number of ground squirrels found infected to date, 9.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 6. Ground squirrels shot, 104. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 100. No plague-infected squirrels found.

TULARE COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Tulare County.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 9. Ground squirrels shot, 419. Rabbits shot, 1. Examined bacteriologically, 414 squirrels and 1 rabbit. No plague infection found.

VENTURA COUNTY, CAL.

There is no record of human or rodent plague in Ventura County

Week ended April 23, 1910. Ranches inspected, 15. Ground squirrels shot, 64. Ground squirrels examined bacteriologically, 60. No plague-infected squirrels found.

Assistant Surgeon Chapin reports:

SEATTLE, WASH.

No case of human plague since October 30, 1907. The last plague-infected rat was found February 8, 1910. Total plague-infected rats to date, 22.

Week ended April 23, 1910. Rats received, 848. Rats necropsied, 668. No plague-infected rats found.

SMALLPOX IN THE UNITED STATES.

Reports Received During Week Ended May 13, 1910.

Place.	Date.	Cases.	Deaths.	Remarks.
Alabama:				
Mobile	Apr. 24-30	16		
Montgomery	Apr. 24-30	8		
Maryland:				
Prince George County—				
Fort Washington	Apr. 1-30	1		
California:				
San Francisco	Apr. 17-23	4		
Colorado, general	Mar. 1-Apr. 30		3	
Adams County	Apr. 1-30	2		
Archuleta County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Boulder County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Conejos County	Apr. 1-30	18		
Delta County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Denver County	Apr. 1-30	23		
Gunnison County	Apr. 1-30	8		
Huerfano County	Apr. 1-30	12		
Jefferson County	Apr. 1-30	4		
Las Animas County	Apr. 1-30	3		
Mesa County	Apr. 1-30	2		
Mineral County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Montrose County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Morgan County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Otero County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Pueblo County	Apr. 1-30	2		
Rio Grande County	Apr. 1-30	3		
Saguache County	Apr. 1-30	23		
Weld County	Apr. 1-30	7		
District of Columbia	Apr. 24-30	4		
Florida:				
Duval County	Apr. 24-30	5		
Franklin County	Apr. 24-30	2		
Gadsden County	Apr. 24-30	2		
Volusia County	Apr. 24-30	2		
Walton County	Apr. 24-30	2		
Louisiana:				
New Orleans	Apr. 24-30	19	1	
Michigan:				
Antrim County	Apr. 1-30	6		
Arenac County	Apr. 1-30	4		
Barry County	Apr. 1-30	2		
Bay County	Apr. 1-30	28		
Berrien County	Apr. 1-30	2		
Calhoun County	Apr. 1-30	8		
Cass County	Apr. 1-30	3		
Clare County	Apr. 1-30	7		
Eaton County	Apr. 1-30	5		
Genesee County	Apr. 1-30	11		
Gladwin County	Apr. 1-30	9		
Gratiot County	Apr. 1-30	3		
Houghton County	Apr. 1-30	2		
Huron County	Apr. 1-30	7		
Ingham County	Apr. 1-30	4		
Ionia County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Iosco County	Apr. 1-30	3		
Kent County	Apr. 1-30	9		
Lapeer County	Apr. 1-30	11		
Manistee County	Apr. 1-30	2		
Mecosta County	Apr. 1-30	12		
Missaukee County	Apr. 1-30	1		
Oakland County	Apr. 1-30	2		
Ogemaw County	Apr. 1-30	33		
Ontonagon County	Apr. 1-30	1		